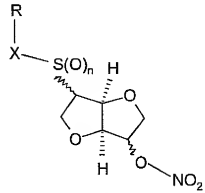
IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The cancellation of any claim or subject matter within a claim is effected without prejudice.

1. (Original) A compound according to formula (I) or a tautomer, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a prodrug or a solvate thereof:



(1)

wherein

n is an integer of 0, 1, or 2

X represents $-S(O)_m-$, -(C=O)- or a single bond, wherein m is an integer of 0, 1, or 2, with the proviso that when X represents -(C=O)-, then n is 0,

R represents hydrogen or is a residue R^a, which residue R^a is selected from the group consisting of:

C_{1-6} alkyl;

C_{2-6} alkenyl;

C_{3-8} cycloalkyl;

C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, wherein one CH_2 group is replaced by O, S, NH or NCH_3;

C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl;

C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, wherein one CH_2 group is replaced by O, S, N or NCH_3;

phenyl;

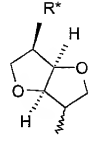
pyridyl;

thiophenyl;

nitrosyl;

S-cysteinyl;

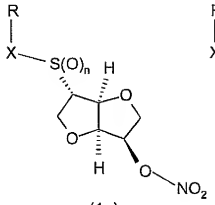
S-glutathionyl; and



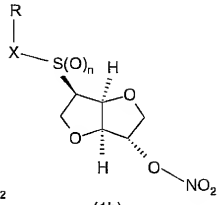
wherein R* is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl,, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl; C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, acetyloxy, hydroxyl, ONO_2 and halogen,

wherein R^a optionally is substituted by one to three groups independently selectd from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, acetyloxy, hydroxyl, ONO_2 and halogen,

provided that when $RXS(O)_n$- and -ONO_2 are trans to each other with respect to the ring plane as depicted in formulae (Ia) and (Ib):



(1a)



(1b)

then $RXS(O)_n$- does not represent  wherein Z is an C_1-C_4 alkyl group, aryl group, or an aralkyl group.

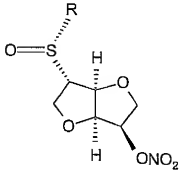
2. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein either one or both of m and n is 0.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X represents a single bond or -S-.

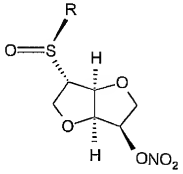
4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1wherein R represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, (C_{1-6} alkyl) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, (C_{1-6} alkyl) C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, phenyl, (C_{1-6} alkyl)phenyl, 5-acetyloxyisosorbid-2-yl, 5-hydroxyisosorbid-2-yl or 5-nitratoisosorbid-2-yl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R is C_{1-6} alkyl.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, which is a compound according to formula (Ic) or Id):



(1c)



(1d)

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, which is selected from:

2-thioisosorbide 5-mononitrate,

5,5'-dinitrate-2,2'-dithiodiisosorbide,

2-methylthioisosorbide 5-mononitrate,

2-[(R)-methylsulfinyl] isosorbide 5-mononitrate,

2-[(S)-methylsulfinyl]isosorbide 5-mononitrate

2-methylsulfinylisosorbide 5-mononitrate,

2-methylsulfonylisosorbide 5-mononitrate,

S-nitroso-2-thiososorbide 5-mononitrate,

2-(tetrahydropyran-2-yl-thio) isosorbide 5-monoitrate,

2-(isosorbidyl-2'dithio) isosorbide 5-mononitrate, and

2-(5'-acetyloxyisosorbidyl-2'-dithio) isosorbide 5-mononitrate.

8. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredients(s) at least one compound according to Claim 1, optionally together with one or more physiologically acceptable excipient(s), activator(s), chelating agent(s) and/or stabilizer(s).

9-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Original) 2,2'-dithiodiisosorbide.